Report the CIA Taped Oswald On Soviet Call

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● See Warren Commission Story Below

By Nicholas M. Horrock
New York Times News Service

The Central Intelligence Agency secretly tape recorded two telephone conversations between Lee Harvey Oswald and the Cuban and Soviet embassies in Mexico City some eight weeks before President John F. Kennedy was shot to death Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas, according to government sources familiar with the events.

The call to the Soviet Embassy, the sources said yesterday, alerted the CIA to the presence of Oswald in Mexico City, and on Oct. 10 the agency warned the FBI. There is no indication that the FBI, which was investigating Oswald for his pro-Castro activities, ever followed up on the information.

The call to the Cuban Embassy, the sources said, was not associated with Oswald until after Kennedy's death. A federal commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren found that Oswald, acting alone, had shot the President.

THE CALLS reportedly were placed by Oswald on a trip to Mexico City in late September and early October 1963. The events of this trip have never been fully made public and have been the subject of speculation for more than a decade.

The reports of the calls are the latest developments in the increasing speculation concerning the Warren Commission's conclusions. Evidence that the CIA and FBI may have been less than candid with the commission have added to the questions surrounding the assassination and have led to more calls for a reopening of the inquiry.

The Mexico City trip was given only scant treatment in the Warren Commission report because publication of information about it might have exposed "sources and methods" of the CIA and impaired national security, intelligence officers and commission staff sources have said.

IN RESPONSE TO inquiries from the New York Times, the CIA issued an unusual public statement on the matter. It would not confirm that there were any tape recorded conversations, but said:

"On Oct. 9, 1963, CIA headquarters received information that a person named Lee Oswald contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City in late September or early October 1963. In transmitting the information on Oct. 10, 1963, CIA headquarters said Lee Oswald was probably identical to Lee Henry (sic) Oswald, a former radar operator in the U.S. Marine Corps, born Oct. 18, 1939, in New Orleans who defected to the Soviet Union in 1959 and who subsequently made arrangements to return to the United States with a Russian wife.

"This biographical data was based upon FBI reports provided to the CIA following Oswald's defection to the Soviet Union.

"THIS INFORMATION was also provided to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Navy, the U.S. ambassador and his staff in Mexico and to the representative of the FBI in Mexico.

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